Scott. II-29—25,503—6-12-24.

Revenue (1925) Department.

SERIES.

G.O. No. 1728

DATED 6-11-25.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Assignment - Land - (S. Kanara)

Patta Waste - Measures of Improvement

Boards remarks - Recorded

L C. 2

Council Office

Question 2-6-25

Sent for Reply 120

Mr. J.A.Saldanha

THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

235. Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to refer to the speech of the hon. Member Khan Bahadur Haji Abdulla Sahib on pp. 830-31 of Vol.XXII of this Council's proceedings and my speech on 17th March 1925 (XXIII 143) in which attention was called to darkhast lands assigned lying long uncultivated and to state---

(a) what steps ~~have~~ Government have taken or contemplate taking in order to see that they are brought under cultivation within a reasonable period to be fixed by the Collector as suggested in the former's speech;

(b) whether Government are going to release such areas out of the lands reserved for Adi-dravidas for the benefit of ex-service men and poor landless ~~xxxx~~ villagers and poor workmen other than Adi-dravidas?

V.R.

Legislative Council Question 23

Draft Answer

(a) Nothing can be done in regard to land already assigned. The question whether future assignments of land should not be subject to the condition that the land will be liable to resumption if not brought under cultivation within a specified period will be examined.

(a) & (b) The suggestions are under consideration.

27.7.25

31.7.25

(a) A report has been called for from the Collector of S. Kanara.

(b) The suggestion is under enquiry.

Draft answer
Despd to Regr
11/8/25

Draft answered
11/8

SB
11/8

Seey's personal order
11/8/25

(Appd by C2 & Secy)

3

Question No. 235

Mr. J. A. Saldanha

Will the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue be pleased to refer to the speech of the Hon'ble Member Khan Bahadur Haji Abdulla Sahib on pages 830-31 of volume XXII of this Council's proceedings and my speech on 17th March 1925 (XXIII - 143) in which attention was called to darkhast lands assigned lying long uncultivated and to state -

(a) what steps Government have taken or contemplate taking in order to see that they are brought under cultivation within a reasonable period to be fixed by the Collector as suggested in the former's speech;

(b) whether Government are going to release such areas out of the lands reserved for Adi-dravidas for the benefit of ex-service men and poor landless villagers and poor workmen other than Adi-dravidas?

Revenue Department

Answer

(a) A report has been called for from the Collector of South Kanara.

(b) The suggestion is under enquiry.

Fort St. George,
11th August 1925

E. W. Legh.
Secretary to Government.

To the Legislative Council Office

(The above answer has been approved by

The Hon'ble Mr. H. E. Arbuthnot, C.S.I.,C.I.E.,I.C.S.,)

- - - - - -

FORWARDED

(By Order)

L-C Proceedings 9-21-8-25

B. S. Iyenkaran
Superintendent
12

Cultivation of assigned darkhast lands.

328 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to refer to the speech of the hon. Member Khan Bahadur Haji Abdulla Sahib on pages 830–31 of Vol. XXII of this Council's proceedings and my speech on 17th March 1925 (Vol. XXIII, page 143) in which attention was called to darkhast lands assigned lying long uncultivated and to state—

(*a*) what steps Government have taken or contemplate taking in order to see that they are brought under cultivation within a reasonable period to be fixed by the Collector as suggested in the former's speech; and

(*b*) whether Government are going to release such areas outside of the lands reserved for Adi-Dravidas for the benefit of ex-service men and poor landless villagers and poor workmen other than Adi-Dravidas?

A.—(*a*) A report has been called for from the Collector of South Kanara.

(*b*) The suggestion is under enquiry.

Two papers

Reminder 29/9

4

Memo no 3462C/25-4 dated 11.8.25

Cultivation of lands applied on darkhast — South Kanara

It has been alleged by ~~during the last budget debate~~ of the Legl. Council certain members from S. Kanara ~~complained~~ that large areas of cultivable lands in private occupation in that district are left uncultivated. The Board of Revenue is requested to obtain a report from the Collector of S. Kanara on the following points and submit it to Govt. with its remarks:—

(1) Whether there is, as alleged, a tendency to keep cultivable lands uncultivated

(2) (Whether, if so,) there is anything injurious in the practice and

(3) whether, if the practice exists and is injurious, cultivation might be made a ~~condition~~ condition of future grants

2. An early reply is

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

C.F. 31

CURRENT No.

Received ..... 192 . *Registered* Rev 1574 A 1925.
21. 10

Subject.

Assignment - Land (South Kanara) - Patta waste - Measures - Collector's report submitted to Government.

ENCLOSURES.
No. .....
.....
Spare copies .....

Routine -No.5048

Station Madras, *Dated the* 20th October 1925.

From W. SCOTT BROWN, Esquire, I.C.S.,

Secretary, ~~The~~ Board of Revenue, Land Revenue and ~~Revenue~~ Settlement, etc. ~~Separate Revenue.~~

P.L.Moore Esquire, C.I.E., I.C.S.
Commissioner of Land Revenue.

~~Reference.~~ Resolution

Read the following paper:--

Letter from G.W.Wells Esquire, M.A., I.C.S., Collector of South Kanara, D.Dis.No.6748-25, dated the 26th September 1925.

Board's Reference No.B-3480-25-1, dated the 13th August 1925.

**

I submit the following information on the three points mentioned in the Government Memorandum No.3462-C-25-1, dated the 11th August 1925, referred to in the Board's reference.

Mr 4-5 supra

2. The enquiries made through the Tahsildars show that there is no tendency among ryots to keep cultivable lands uncultivated. Most of the land obtained on darkhast consists

consists of dry lands, which are for the most part of inferior quality and can be brought under the plough only at a considerable initial out-lay. They are mostly uncultivable though here and there paddy fields are being made by expensive levelling and terracing. This process is now going on as it has received an impetus since the Settlement owing to the favourable dry rates which are much lower than the pre-settlement minimum darkhast rate of one rupee per acre and also owing to the rise of prices in the rice market. Though the district enjoys an unfailing and regular rainfall averaging 144 inches a year, which is favourable to agriculture, the hill-torrents, during the monsoon break up the cultivated land into gullies and wash away manure if it is not suitably protected. This necessitates conservation of wood growth for purposes of manure on large extents of dry lands of inferior quality obtained on darkhast and where such land is easily cultivable, it is cultivated by raising Hakkal crops or by planting it with cocoanut plants.

3. According to the statistics of Fasli 1334 the patta wastes are:--

Wet - 16,548 acres.

Dry - 3,64,875 acres. The extent of wastes under occupied wet occurs chiefly in the Ghat villages where owing to the prevalence of malaria and want of labour. wet lands on the margin of cultivation are not cultivated. Their non-cultivation is due to causes beyond the ryots' control. As regards the large extent of waste occupied dry, their non-cultivation is due to the following causes:

(1)Arable dry land available for darkhast is of inferior quality.

(2)A large extent of dry land is mostly un-cultivable, owing to the unevenness of the land due to a series of rough undulations of laterite rock against which the cultivator has to contend in his first operations.

(3)Owing to excessive rainfall, a large quantity of manure leaves is required for cultivation and to meet this demand wood-

growth

wood-growth has to be conserved on a large extent of occupied dry land of inferior quality which cannot be cultivated without much out-lay. Besides, ryots require thatching grass for their houses which are mostly thatched in rural parts, fuel for domestic purposes and land for cattle-grazing.

(4)There are no irrigation works in the district. This makes the cultivation of lands which do not possess natural facilities for irrigation, difficult.

4. Points (2) and (3).- There is nothing injurious in the above practice and I do not see any necessity to impose on future grants a condition of the kind referred to in Point (3).

- - - -

RESOLUTION.

Reference.- Government Memorandum No.3462-25-1 dated the 11th August 1925.

The South Kanara Collector's letter read above is submitted to Government.

2. The Board agrees with the Collector's views,.

(True Extract)

W Scott Bourne 26/10

Secretary.

To the Second Secretary to Government.

C.N.N./20-10.

20/10

9+

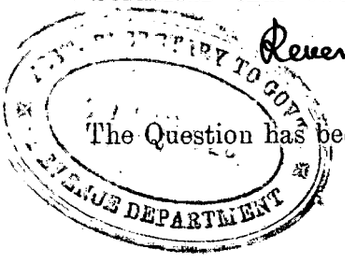
Law Dept. III-8—4,000—1-12-24.

QUESTION.—No. 235 for the next meeting of the Legislative Council ~~to be held on the~~ 1925.

Rev 34 62C

20 6 25

SUBMITTED that two copies of this Question may be forwarded to the Revenue Department.



The Question has been admitted.

2
18/6

DRM
17/6

2.c.

U.O. No. 1586-1 *dated* 20-6-25

To

The Revenue Department.

To Secretary.

Clause (a) of the question.

In his budget speech of the 5th March 1925 Mr. Haji Abdulla Sahib complained that lands assigned on darkhast, especially in South Kanara, on condition of payment of assessment are allowed to lie fallow and that no provision has been made in the darkhast rules for combating this indifference on the part of the assignees to cultivate the lands obtained on darkhast. He suggested that it should be laid down that darkhast lands will be assigned free of assessment for seven or eight years in order that the necessary improvements may be effected on the lands, the improvements constituting which will also be a proof of intention to cultivate and that, in the event of failure to improve within the prescribed time, the land must revert to Government and pass on to those who will cultivate them.

The Hon'ble Member answered this, saying: "I understand that these inferior lands which are darkhasted for are not taken for purposes of cultivation, but for growing thatching grass and manure leaf. I shall be glad to draw the attention of the Collector to the matter and ask him if he considers that there is any harm being done by the present practice to the detriment of cultivation".

No× action has yet been taken with reference to this. It is submitted that extracts of Mr. Abdullah Sahib's and the Hon'ble Member's remarks on the subject may now be forwarded to the Collector of South Kanara for report, and the M.L.C. may be told that the matter is under the consideration of Government.

2. As regards Mr. Haji Abdulla Sahib's suggestion that lands should be assigned free of assessment for 8 years and that in the event of failure to improve the land within this time the lands must lapse to

Ans 3/11

Government and pass on to those who would cultivate them, it is submitted that under para. 1 of B.S.O.No.17 cowles free of assessment, varying in period from five to 25 years at the discretion of the Collector, may be given for clearing waste land covered with prickly pear. Also under para 42 of B.S.O. No.15 lands cultivated with special products in certain hill and other tracts are exempt from assessment for three or five years. It does not appear that this concession need be extended generally to the disposal of ordinary assessed waste land under the darkhast rules in B.S.O.No.15.

p.44 of B.S.O. Vol.I.

p.21 of Correction Slip to B.S.O.15.

Lands assigned to ex-service men are subject to the condition that the lands should on pain of resumption without payment of compensation be brought under cultivation within a period to be specified by the Collector in each case - para. 2 of G.O.No.1388 Revenue, dated 10-6-1919. It is for consideration whether the Board may be asked to report if such a condition should not be imposed in all cases of future assignment.

3. Clause (b) of the question.

The Board is being separately asked to examine the question - Linked file ~~I above~~.

Linked file below

4. A draft answer is submitted for approval. It may be sent to Law (General) for acceptance. Draft Memo to Board ~~will be~~ is also put up ~~after H.M. has seen~~ orders

V.P.
31/7/25

I cannot understand why Mr. Ranga
has taken up our further
question now after it
The draft answer may be sent

Received 4/8/25

4/8/25

4/8/25

M.S.1

What we want to know just now is whether there is as alleged a tendency to keep lands uncultivated with the

4/12

There is anything improper in the practice. It is obvious you cannot do anything as regards land already held on paths but if the practice should be improper collusion might be made a cover for future practice. The Govt should be asked to obtain report from the Collector & submit it with its remarks. I have sent a report on Haji Abdullah's & the Sultan's observations but on the matter they refer to, as stated by me above

HC
6/8

(This scandalous that complaints should have been taken of this debate & that Govt should be exposed to the suspicion of hushing up merely because the clerks have been idle & careless. But what is the duty of a particular Dept or clerk to do to push the reports immediately they come? Apart, this arrangement should be one be made. If it is, the person responsible should be called on to explain his neglect & action should be taken to punish him adequately

HC

The reply to the Presidency may go as revised

HC
6/8

Remarks dictated by Mr Bell 7/8/25

V.S. Govt's observations & further correspondence

RB 9/8/25

Extracts taken & papers obtained

DP 14.8.25

RB 7/8/25

6. 5/13/

To Asst. Secy

A draft Memo. is submitted for approval.

2. H.M. has not indicated the answer to clause (b) of the question. On this point a report has been called for from the Board of Revenue – Vide Memo No 1378 C/25-2 dt 5-8-25 in C.7. in linked file. For orders as to the answer to clause (b)

8.8.25

10.8.25

Dictated.

Please submit Memo. Memo will accordingly be drawn

+ Note on question re. extracts taken & employ obtained, 10.8.25

11/8

[Memo. to Board of Rev. (RS.) No. 3462 C/25-1 dt 11.8.25] pp 4-5 C.7.

[C.No. 1574 A/25. From Bd. of Rev. (RS.) Rl. No. 5048 dt 20.6.25] pp 6-8 C.7

To Secretary,

Please see the Board's report at pp 6-8 C.7 and the answer to the Q question at p 3 C.7. No supplementary question was asked in council (p 3 C.7) The Collr. does not think any further action necessary and the Board agrees with him. Submitted

& 14

orders whether the papers may be released

K.V.S.N.
26.10.25.

198
28/10/25

The facts stated at pp 6-8 are interesting & somewhat surprising to one who does not know S. K. more

No further reply or letter to the Dr Lt necessary unless asked for (vide p 3 ante)

Cr 30.10.25

Sd
29/10/25

Vivian Thompson
Jm
3/11

Bellew says the Govt agree in the view of Mr KVS & Collector
Jm
3/11

Sd
4/11/25

To Assistt. Secy

A draft order in accordance ~~releasing~~ with Hon'ble orders ~~the papers~~ is submd. for approval.

K.V.S.N.
2.11.25.

VP
5.11.25

198
2.11.25

Sectt. II-5 (a)—28,703—6-12-24. (6)

15 Revenue DEPARTMENT.

	Date.	Initials.
When received for Fair-copying.		
When copied ..	6/11	SWO
When examined ..	7.11	
When signed ..		
When despatched ..		

READ AGAIN G.O. No....., dated.....192

" " " " ..... " 192

READ ALSO:—

C No. 3462C/25. ~~From the~~ Memo to the Board of Rev. dRHS No. 3462C/25-1, dated 11-8-1925

" " From the Board of Rev. Rent. " 5048 " 20.10 1925

" " ..... " " ..... " ..... " 192

ORDER. No. 1728 dated 6-11-1925

Memo. DPF dated 6-11-25

Recorded.

2/. The Govt. agree in the views of the Board and the Collector.

KRSN. 2/11/25.

VP 5.11.25

Forwarded please W.M. 7/11/25

DESPATCHED 7 NOV 1925

To

The Board of Rev. (dRHS.)